

In The Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a milk yield for a group of dairy animals, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting a subgroup of animals from the group of dairy animals;

milking the subgroup of animals with milking devices to obtain a milk yield for the subgroup of animals;

storing the milk yield for the subgroup of animals in a control device;

~~determining a subgroup milk yield for the subgroup of animals;~~ and

~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of dairy animals using the subgroup milk yield as a factor.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of ~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of dairy animals is derived from the ~~an~~ actual quantity of milk yield extracted from the subgroup of animals.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

determining a milk yield of an individual animal from the subgroup of animals; and

~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of dairy animals using the individual animal's milk yield as a factor.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, and further comprising the step of:

identifying an animal of the subgroup that is representative of the subgroup.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, and further comprising the step of:

storing individual animal data to be used as factors in calculating
milk yield for the subgroup in the control device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the individual animal data are used as a factor in determining the milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of:

deriving a measure for accumulated lactation milk yield for at least one animal of the
subgroup of animals to be used in calculating a milk
yield for the subgroup of dairy animals.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the step of:

deriving a measure for a milk yield from a plurality of milkings for at least one animal of
the subgroup of animals.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

calculating the length of time between milkings; and
using the length of time between milkings as a factor in determining a milk yield for the
subgroup of dairy animals.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

comparing a milk yield prognoses with the milk yield
determined for the subgroup of animals; and
using the comparison as a factor in calculating a milk yield for the group of dairy
animals.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of milking the subgroup of animals comprises the step of:

milking the subgroup of animals with ~~is milked by milking machines~~ devices that number
from between about 1 % and about 75 %, of the total number of milking ~~units~~
devices used to milk the group.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of animals comprises the step of:

selecting dairy animals randomly from the group.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of animals comprises the step of:

selecting specific animals known to be representative of the
subgroup of dairy animals.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

selecting a second subgroup of animals that does not include any dairy animals from the subgroup of dairy animals;

~~determining~~ milking the second subgroup of animals with milking devices to determine a

milk yield[[s]] during a second milking session for the second subgroup which were not determined during a first milking session; and

~~calculating~~ operating the control device to calculate a milk yield for the group of animals using the milk yields from the second milking session.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of selecting a subgroup of dairy animals, comprises the step of:

selecting animals for the subgroup based on each animal's milk yields over time.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, and further comprising the steps of:

comparing the actual milk yield of the subgroup with a milk yield prognoses result of said comparison; and

initiating at least one dairy process as a result of said comparison.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~subgroup is milked~~
by step of milking the second subgroup of animals with milking devices comprises the step of:

milking the second subgroup with milking machines devices that number from between
about 2% and about 50 % of the total number of milking ~~machines~~ devices used
to milk the dairy animals in the group.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~subgroup is milked~~
by step of milking the subgroup of animals with milking devices comprises the step of:

milking the subgroup of animals with milking machines devices that number from
between about 3 % and about 20 % of the total number of milking ~~machines~~
devices used to milk the dairy animals in the group.

23. (Withdrawn) A device for determining a total milk yield for a group of dairy animals, the
device comprising:

a milk meter for measuring milk yield from only a subgroup of cows; and
a calculating device for using the measured milk yield from only the subgroup of
dairy animals to arrive at a total milk yield for the group of dairy animals.

24. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

a dairy animal selector; and
a controller in communication with the selector.

25. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:

a dairy animal selector; and
a controller in electronic communication with the selector.

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26. (Withdrawn) The device according to claim 23, and further comprising:
- an animal identification device; and
 - a selector in communication with the identification device to select dairy animals to be included in the subgroup.